

DEFORMABLE CAP FOR COMPUTER POINTING DEVICEABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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- A deformable cap for a computer pointing device is presented. The deformable cap may be particularly useful for miniature joystick-type pointing devices such as the TrackPoint™ and ScrollPoint™ devices manufactured by the IBM corporation of Armonk, NY. When an operator places a fingertip on the cap, the cap deforms thereby advantageously increasing the surface area of contact between the cap and the fingertip.
- 10 All embodiments of the cap are placed on an upper portion of a control stick of the pointing device. A first embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support, a disc, a plurality of wire supports, and an elastic cover that overlays the disc and wire supports. An inner surface of the cover may be scored to ensure repeatable deformation of the cap. A spring may be attached to a lower surface of the disc to assist the cap in regaining its
- 15 original shape once the operator's fingertip is removed. A second embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support, a plurality of wire supports, and an elastic cover overlaying the wire supports. An inner surface of the cover may be scored. The cap may be hollow or may be filled with a deformable material. A third embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support and an elastic cover in which an inner surface of the cover may be scored.
- 20 The cap may be hollow or may be filled with a deformable material.

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